

State Water Resources Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards preserve and enhance the quality of California water resources, and the allocation and use of state water. The Budget includes \$1 billion (\$23 million General Fund) and 1,864 positions for the Board.

Reorganization of the Drinking Water Program

Programs designed to protect water quality for drinking and other purposes are housed in multiple agencies, reducing their effectiveness.

The Budget proposes to transfer \$200.3 million (\$5 million General Fund) and 291.2 positions for the administration of the Drinking Water Program from the Department of Public Health to the Water Board. Transferring the Drinking Water Program will achieve the following objectives:

- Establish a single water quality agency to enhance accountability for water quality issues.
- Better provide comprehensive technical and financial assistance to help communities, especially small disadvantaged communities, address an array of challenges related to drinking water, wastewater, water recycling, pollution, desalination, and storm water.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of drinking water, groundwater, water recycling, and water quality programs.

Other Significant Adjustments:

- Water Action Plan — \$11.9 million from various fund sources and ten positions to more effectively manage groundwater and improve drinking water in disadvantaged communities. (See Water Action Plan in the Natural Resources Chapter.)
- Enforcement of Marijuana Cultivation Laws — \$1.8 million Waste Discharge Permit Fund and 11 positions to improve the prevention of illegal stream diversions, discharges of pollutants into waterways, and other water quality impacts associated with marijuana production. Currently, marijuana cultivation is threatening water quality and the sensitive habitat of endangered species. This proposal will be a coordinated effort with the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological value and for their use and enjoyment by the public. This includes the management of recreational, commercial, scientific, and educational programs. The Budget includes \$404 million (\$63 million General Fund) and 2,616 positions for the Department.

Significant Adjustments:

- Oil Spill Response Program — \$6.7 million Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fund and 38 positions to enhance the Department's inland oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response capabilities. Rail shipments of oil, including North Dakota Bakken oil, are expected to significantly increase from 3 million barrels to approximately 150 million barrels per year by 2016. This type of oil is extremely flammable and its transport increases the risk of serious accidents, similar to the rail incident in Lac-Megantic, Quebec in July 2013. This proposal will expand the existing oil spill program to address the increased risk of inland oil spills by supporting prevention, emergency response preparedness, cleanup, and enforcement measures. The proposal also includes increased funding for the Oil Wildlife Care Network, which protects wildlife affected by marine oil spills. This additional funding will be supported by expanding the existing 6.5 cent per barrel fee, which is currently collected at marine ports, to all crude oil sent to refineries. This proposal is part of the Administration's ongoing efforts to improve the safety of the extraction, transportation, processing, and use of fossil fuels in California.

- Marijuana Related Enforcement — \$1.5 million from various special funds and seven positions to investigate and enforce violations of illegal streambed alterations and the Endangered Species Act associated with marijuana production. Currently, marijuana cultivation is threatening water supply, water quality, and the sensitive habitat of endangered species. This proposal will be a coordinated effort with the Water Board.